

11-12-2009

Lake Forest College Stentor, November 12, 2009

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Recommended Citation

"Lake Forest College Stentor, November 12, 2009" (2009). *Stentor*. Vol. 125, No. 6.
<http://publications.lakeforest.edu/stentor/94>

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The Stentor

VOL 125, № 6

November 12, 2009

Publishing since 1887

The Brits are debating! The Brits are debating!

TRACY SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER
schwate@lakeforest.edu

On the evening of Monday, November 9th, in the nearly full chapel, two Lake Forest College students took on two members of the British National Debate Team. Elliot Luke '11, and Liz Gortz '10 challenged Dan Bradley of the University of Manchester, and Andrew Tuffin of King's College London, to a debate. The topic of the night was "Should President Barack Obama decline the Nobel Peace Prize?" No matter what you thought going into the debate, both sides raised very interesting and thought provoking points in a very sophisticated and respectful way.

The debate was guided by the rules

of the American Parliamentary System, with the Foresters representing the Government, and the British as the Opposition. The Government, with Luke as the "Prime Minister", started the debate off with an eight-minute speech as to why President Obama should decline the Nobel Prize. He argued that the committee should have waited for completion and instead acted on something that has yet to be started. He also argued that declining will, "make the prize more meaningful" and keep "peace a priority." Bradley was the head of the Opposition, and argued that Obama should accept the Prize.

See Debate on page two

News

Debate *cont. from front page*

“He deserved it. That’s why he should keep it,” Bradley said in his British accent. Gortz at the start of her eight minute speech reiterated some of Luke’s points and added her own. Tuffin spoke last and said that Obama receiving the award was living up to the standards that Alfred Nobel laid out for the award.

Following the opening arguments, was an open forum where audience members could either ask questions or make their own argument for either side. Several people jumped at the opportunity and raised points that were left out by both sides. Following this, the leader of each side had five minutes to offer a rebuttal. At the end, the audience declared the British National Debate team the victor. However, both sides gained support during the debate. A poll was taken at the beginning, and most people who were on the fence about the issue were persuaded to one side or the other by the end.

This was the third year that the British National Debate Team has come to campus. The first year that they came to Lake Forest, no students challenged the team, so they had a debate against themselves. Last year was the first year that student s debated against the British team, and it should be a tradi-

tion from now on. It took Gortz and Luke “give or take a month” to prepare for the debate. The Brits have been traveling around the country for about the last seven weeks debating at various college campuses.

The topic was chosen by Lake Forest College after some internal debate. The event was hosted by several offices on campus. The Department of Communication, Student Government, the Dean of Faculty, and the President’s Office were some of the more estab-

lished supporters, but the newly re-organized Debate Society was leading the way. Starting in the spring, the Debate Society hopes to host more events on campus that will get everyone talking. The open forum part in the middle of the debate was very encouraging for this endeavor because several students offered well thought and interesting statements. If you are interested in joining the Debate Society keep your ears and eyes open for more information.

The debate was thought provoking and entertaining. While there were several jabs made at former president George W. Bush (the most harsh being the “nutcase cowboy” comment), there were also several historical comparisons made to put the event into context. On December 10th when the Nobel Prizes are officially accepted, this reporter will be waiting to hear which side of the debate won when we find out if President Obama accepts or declines the Nobel Peace Prize.



Photo by Christian Keck.

Sophomore Elliot Luke shares his opinion on the matter with the audience.

News Briefs:

ComedySportz

The format of a show features two teams of improv performers competing in games and scenes, with audience members judging. In every show a referee monitors the action, awarding points and administering fouls as necessary. Friday, Nov. 13th at 7 pm in the Mohr Student Center

Richard Linklater Film

Festival: A Scanner Darkly

Set in the future where America has lost the war on drugs, an undercover cop, Fred, is one of many agents hooked on a popular drug, which causes split personalities. Along with his superior officers, Fred sets up an elaborate scheme to tear down his operation. Friday, Nov. 13th at 8 pm in the McCormick Auditorium.

Men’s Hockey Home Opener & Open Skate

Forester Hockey will make its home opener debut this Friday at 7:30pm. The first 200 students will receive a give-away and there will be an open skate afterwards.

Upcoming Events

11/13-Handball Women’s Singles in the Sports Center
11/13-Men’s Hockey vs. Lawrence University at 7:30 pm in the Ice Rink
11/13-The House of Bernarda Alba at 8 pm in Hixon Hall
11/14-Handball Women’s Singles in the Sports Center
11/14-Latino Issues Symposium from 1-5 pm in the Meyer Auditorium
11/14-The House of Bernarda Alba at 2 and 8 pm
11/15-Men’s Basketball vs. Lakeland College at 3 pm in the Sports Center
11/16-Careers in Music: Bryan Rheude at 4 pm in Reid Hall Room 100
11/17-Performance:Fast & Cheap from 12-1 pm in the Center for Chicago Programs
11/17-Women’s Basketball vs. UW-Oshkosh at 7 pm in the Sports Center
11/17-Cole Thornton’s Senior Concert at 7:30 pm in the Chapel
11/18-Beginner’s Resume Building Workshop from 4-5 pm

The Lake Forest College
STENTOR
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 CONTACT INFORMATION
 (847) 735-5215

GENERAL INQUIRIES

stentor@lfc.edu

SUBSCRIPTIONS/ ADVERTISING

hashit@lakeforest.edu

STAFF

ANNE COOPER - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF - EDITOR@LFC.EDU
 NATE BUTALA - MANAGING EDITOR - MANAGER@LFC.EDU
 MARGARET COHN - NEWS EDITOR - NEWS@LFC.EDU
 SONIA AXELROD - COPY EDITOR - COPY@LFC.EDU

KAVITA SESHAN - PHOTO EDITOR - PHOTOS@LFC.EDU
 ZAKEA BOEGER - FEATURES EDITOR - FEATURES@LFC.EDU
 IRENE RUIZ DACAL - FEATURES EDITOR - FEATURES@LFC.EDU
 ANDREW VAN HERIK - OPINIONS EDITOR - OPINIONS@LFC.EDU
 NICK CANTOR - SPORTS EDITOR - SPORTS@LFC.EDU
 TAMIMA HASHIM - BUSINESS EDITOR- BUSINESS@LFC.EDU
 HEATHER BROWN - ADVISOR

This week’s cover image by Christian Keck.



Photo by Christian Keck.

Senior Elizabeth Gortz explains why President Obama should refuse the award.

News

How to live with tyranny

MAJDA ELEZOVIC

CONTRIBUTOR

elezom@lakeforest.edu

On Wednesday, October 28th in the Center of Chicago Programs, Islamic World Studies, Amnesty International and the Office of Intercultural Relations hosted DePaul University professor and author, Mahmoud Saeed.

Professor Saeed was arrested numerous times by former Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein. Saeed's recent novel, "Saddam City", was translated by Lake Forest College's sociology Professor Ahmed Sadri and is being sold in the LFC book store. In "Saddam City", he recalls the horrible time he spent in prison. The novel depicts the fear and despair of Baghdad schoolteacher Mustafa Ali Noman who was taken from prison to prison. The difficulty of his arrest and the torture he and other prisoners endured is vividly explained.

At the lecture, along with Saeed's book, a piece from Amnesty International's "Freedom" was featured.

"Freedom" is an anthology of short stories about human rights. The pieces were accentuated by LFC student Safina Lavji. Freedom is not a topic many students in the United States have thought about. At LFC, students are encouraged to speak out when evils are committed without worry of persecution. Students are not taken away and placed in prison for having different views on life. Saeed has not always been so lucky. He was a schoolteacher in Iraq during Hussein's dictatorship, and on numerous occasions he was asked to join the Saddam political party. Saeed always declined which, undoubtedly caused him trouble and numerous arrests. On one particular occasion, Saeed was captured by Saddam's militia and marched across Iraq with only the light clothes he had on during the time of his arrest. He was in jail for six months. When Saeed was finally interrogated, the officers beat him and hung him upside down from the ceiling.

Saeed had been arrested a total of six times before escaping as a political refugee to the United States. Since he has been in America, Saeed has been writing and educating people about what happened under Hussein's reign in Iraq.

When Amnesty International launched their campaign, Call for Freedom, they asked Saeed to write a story based on human rights. Saeed jumped at the opportunity to be part of the cause. Saeed's story entitled "Warriors of the Sky" tells the story of the main character, Muhammad, having a conversation with a friend about starting a new organization and what it means to have the right of assembly post-Saddam. The right to assembly was banned under Saddam's regime, so to Muhammad, organizing an assembly would be a privilege. The story examines human right violations that occurred under the old regime and all the problems that are rising now because of them.

People living in Iraq,

post-Saddam's regime have the right to assembly, but they are still subjected to harassment by rival groups. Saeed believes it is harder to have freedom of assembly now, than during Saddam's time because during Saddam's time people knew the limitations. There was a ban and there were consequences for not following the law. Now, it is chaos.

A year ago in Iraq, a group of people were killed by soldiers in the American Army when the translator told the army that the people were terrorists. The incident was apparently a set up.

"People end up dead either way," Saeed said. Adding that they were either "killed by Saddam or killed as terrorist."

The subject of these killings has been on Saeed's mind, making writing the story for Amnesty International a perfect project for him. When asked what the inspiration for this story was, Saeed answered, "1000 Arabian Nights [a collection of folk tales]. That story brings mu-

sic to readers ears just like 'Warrior of the Sky' brings beauty."

During the lecture, Saeed stated, "I always ask myself about the future." He believes the first step is for United States to pull out and return the old Army which served under Saddam. Saeed believes that most of these men were not harmful, and only some committed criminal acts. "If America doesn't return the army, there will be civil war when America withdraws."

After these chilly words, Saeed said that what ended up saving him from death was one dinner invitation that occurred long ago. Saeed invited a friend to dinner who brought along one of his own friends. The dinner was a success. They all had a great time, and at the end of the evening, they parted. Time passed, and one time, that friend of a friend saw him in prison and asked for Saeed to be released. In the end, Saeed is a cheerful man. He jokingly added: "next time I am imprisoned I will know why."

World news update

In Washington DC...

A narrow passing of 220-215 votes late Saturday night gets President Barack Obama's health care bill through the House of Representatives, but now it must go through the Senate. If The Affordable Health Care for America Act (or H.R. 3962) passes Senate and is enacted into law, it will be the largest expansion of Health Care coverage in over 40 years, which was when Medicare was created. The act will restrict insurance companies from denying coverage to any persons with pre existing conditions or from charging higher rates based on medical history or gender. It will provide federal subsidies to those who can not afford it. According

to the Congressional Budget Office, it guarantees coverage for 96 percent of Americans. Whether the bill becomes a law is unpredictable, as the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Democrat) from Nevada has expressed uncertainty.

At Fort Hood, Texas...

Last Thursday, November 5th at Fort Hood, 13 were killed and 42 were wounded in a mass shooting. Suspect, Major Nidal Malik

Hasan was shot multiple times after the shooting, and has been in the hospital in critical condition. Over the weekend, he regained consciousness and began talking to Army investigators. A motive is unknown and investigators have voiced

that they are not jumping to conclusions as to the reason behind the shootings. The memorial service took place on Tuesday, November 10th.

In El Salvador...

Heavy rains led to flooding and mudslides in El Salvador, mostly near it's capitol, San Salvador. At least 130 people have been reported dead, 60 have been missing, and 7,000 have lost homes officials said on Monday, November 9th. Private, government, and U.N. donations have been promised, but the need is quite urgent as so many are homeless and a cold front is expected. The death toll is expected to continue rising.

In London...

British chocolate and chewing gum maker, Cadbury, turned down Kraft's \$16.3 billion bid for ownership, as the company felt it was too low. Cadbury said that Kraft would have to increase

the offering to the equivalent of at least 8 euros a share. The offer is currently at roughly 3 euros a share. "Kraft's offer does not come remotely close to reflecting the true value of our company," Cadbury chairman, Roger Carr said, "and involves the unattractive prospect of the absorption of Cadbury into a low-growth conglomerate business model." At the time Kraft is not planning on raising the offer, but if the merger works out, it will be one of the largest mergers this year.

Compiled using the New York Times and CNN.com by News Editor, Margaret Cohn



Features

Lake Forest College's *House of Bernarda Alba*: Highly Recommended

CARL LaMARK
CONTRIBUTOR
lamarcj@lakeforest.edu

When speaking to Maggie Speer, a vital contributor to Lake Forest College's theater community, what comes across above all else is her desire to share her positive experiences in theater with students. In the 2007 season, she directed Sean O'Casey's Irish tragedy *The Plow and the Stars*, a work in which she had the pleasure to perform in Chicago. This year, she is delighted to direct once again a work that holds a personal connection,

Federico Garcia Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*. The work features an all female cast, and Maggie herself played the lead role of Bernarda quite recently. Written by Lorca during the complications of the Spanish Civil War (a war that would ultimately claim the dramatist's life), *The House of Bernarda Alba* somberly explores the household of an authoritative mother of six daughters after the death of her second husband. When

Bernarda's eldest daughter Angustias (Betsy Mraz '12), who inherited the bulk of the father's fortune, becomes engaged to the eligible but never seen Pepe el Romano, the already tense household becomes consumed in jealousy and betrayal.

It is easy to presume that actresses in their late teens and early twenties would have difficulty in portraying women whose age and nationality are far removed from their own experience. But the cast as a whole does a fine job in depicting Bernarda's daughters and servants, each with quite distinct personalities the resound far past the stage lights. The role of Bernarda herself is a challenge for any actress. In the words of its director, "It is like King Lear for women."

Julianna Hincks '10, meets the role's difficulties

consummately, lending the character a genuine maliciousness as she upbraids her daughters with a firm hand for even the slightest display of impertinence. The difficulty of the role can be located in the character's lack of real arch or development. But Hincks finds interest in the character through an imposing physical presence and voice, not to mention an excellent command of Ber-

tirely sympathetic, you cannot help but find a sense of joy (a great weapon against fascism) in Fisher's vibrant performance.

Freshmen Maya Beckles and Lesley Gao make their debut in this Lake Forest production. Beckles portrays Poncia, Bernarda's maid of over thirty years. The role is hardly a minor one, rivaling Bernarda's in sheer number of lines.

But Beckles holds her own and finds a fine tone for the character's good humor at the family's expense and pleasure taken in minor acts of disobedience.

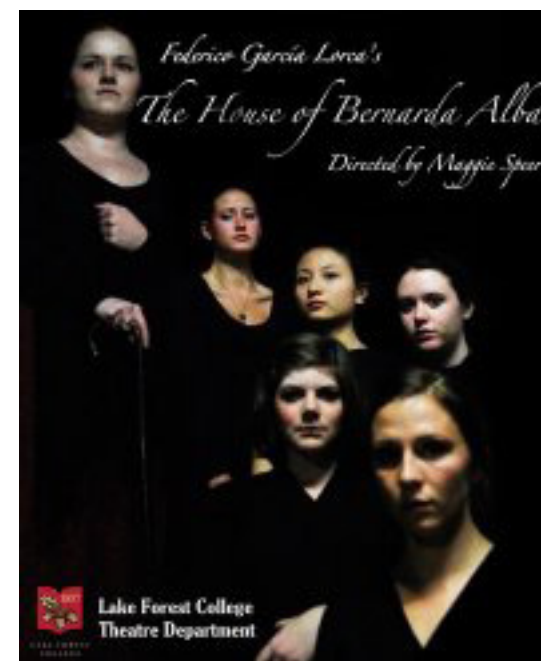
Miss Gao, in the role of the sleepy Magdalena, truly gives a stand out effort, carefully infusing her role with variety and charm. I genuinely wished that she had more lines. For both actresses, truly promising performances.

Dennis Mae's set design does an eloquent job in

“...the cast as a whole does a fine job in depicting Bernarda's daughters and servants, each with quite distinct personalities the resound far past the stage lights.”

narda's brutal cane that aids the character's handicap as much as her abusive will.

Alexandra Fisher '10 continues a string of solid performances in the role of Adela, Bernarda's youngest and most defiant daughter. Although Lorca does not paint her as en-



the theater's limited space. White spackled walls, terra cotta tiles with sparse colored segments, and looming arches that cloister the stage render the setting of a Spanish country villa wonderfully. Silver plated chalices that are obviously only for show are a nice touch - along with an ever present iron crucifix - in bringing a Catholic presence to the stage. Ms. Speer has directed yet another

well crafted and thoughtful production and has truly brought out the best in her cast. Highly recommended.

Guest and Robb take the cake at competition

ZAKEA BOEGER
FEATURES EDITOR
boegeza@lakeforest.edu

This past Monday, the dining hall was transformed into a stage for those wishing to display their creativity and ingenuity through cake baking. Those judging the original cakes were none other than Chicago-based Cakegirls Brenda and Mary Maher, who have appeared on both WeTV, and Food Network.

Participants included three teams, each consisting of a student and faculty

member, and each with a specific holiday they hoped to successfully create in cake. Emily Zender '10 and Desaline Allen teamed up to create Christmas, Sarah Guest '11 and Eli Robb created Groundhog's Day, Na Liu '12 and Shuli Ren created a New Year cake, and Kara Centell-Dunk '12 and Susan Long created St. Nick's Day.

The competition was tense, and contestants found themselves with a variety of challenges, but seemed to remain hopeful. With 45 minutes left in the competition, Centell-Dunk found

herself battling gravity, "I just don't want [the shoe cake] to fall over," she said, "We can't have a Converse high-top if there isn't a high-top." Just a few tables down, Guest and Robb were confident. "We've got all the components ready...we just have to put them in place," Robb said.

Those in the cafeteria watching were excited as well. "I love when the Gates Center does fun stuff like this," said on-looker Tracy Schwartz '10, "It takes something so mundane like dinner and spins it, and everyone loves cup-

cake making." And right she was, many students returned multiple times to the table set-up for students to try their own hand at cupcake decorating.

Time quickly ran down, and soon, the contestants were able to finally breathe, and take in their finished cakes. Of her elf cake, Zender was a little wary. "I'm afraid he's going to flace-plant," she said, while awaiting the judges' decision. Finally, the Maher sisters made their decision, awarding first place to Sarah Guest and Eli Robb for their groundhog cake.

As to how they made their decision, Brenda said she looked for "neatness, creativity of theme, and use of technique." Mary looked for similar qualities, specifically, the "work behind [the cake], detail...and techniques." "It was very clean looking," Mary said of Guest and Robb's cake. When asked about their favorite self-made cakes, Brenda replied that hers was a recent "urn on top of a casket" cake made for a wedding. Mary's recent favorite was a "bobblehead cake that actually bobbed."

The Maher sisters also

Features

Much Ado About Muslims

MADEEHA KHAN
STAFF WRITER
khanmw@lakeforest.edu

Last Thursday, November 5, the Muslim Student Association, along with Interfaith and the Islamic World Studies Program, co-sponsored the Insights on Diversity in Islam Panel, which attracted a variety of students and faculty interested in Islam. Majda Elezovic '10, Anum Haider '10, and Shabana Yusufshaq '12 assumed the role of gracious hosts to panel members Dean Rob Flot, Harry Bastermajian, Professor Fatima Imam, and Imam (recognized authority on Islamic theology and leader of prayer in a mosque) Maged Mubarak.

Imam Maged Mubarak began the panel by providing a little bit of background about Sufism, often called the Mystical Islam. Mubarak explained that for him the most spiritual part of Sufism is the "light that shines from within," the beauty of the religion for Mubarak is the way that spirituality

is exhibited by the followers, through their understanding and their actions. He spoke about his spiritual teacher in Palestine, whose influence is most profoundly still felt, even though Mubarak is miles and miles away in America.

Next was Fatima Imam, Assistant Professor of History at Lake Forest College. Professor Imam's understanding of Islam comes primarily from a cultural association with the Shia religion. Professor Imam spoke about women in Islam and how, despite the general misconceptions that surround them, her experience has been a pleasant one. As a single mother, Professor Imam has always felt that her identity, which is somewhat tied to Islam if not defined by it, has been widely accepted in the various countries she has lived in, including India, Saudi Arabia and Canada.

Harry Bastermajian, Lecturer in Politics at Lake Forest College, then rose to speak about how he, although growing up Arme-

nian and following an Orthodox Christian religion, has had trouble in the past separating the Islamic aspects of his culture from the Christian or Armenian aspects. Bastermajian related a childhood anecdote; growing up his grandmother, an Orthodox Armenian Christian would always praise him with the word "Masha'allah," an Arabic word originating from Islam meaning "God has willed it." Bastermajian spoke about his intertwined identity, which has allowed him an opportunity to appreciate and understand Islam from a unique perspective.

Lastly, Lake Forest Dean Rob Flot attempted to provide a brief history of his conversion to Islam and a short description of his Islamic views. Dean Flot began by articulating his belief that he was always Muslim, saying that "I believe I was always a Muslim; many of my close friends in college were Muslim, they were always very respectful, peaceful people and I wanted to

be associated with them, to belong to that ideal." Dean Flot explained that he was once a professed Atheist, but what drew him to Islam was the message of peace, acceptance, and unity.

Overall the panel was a wonderful success, Lake Forest students and faculty asked many questions ranging from topics such as marriage, persecution, equality between the sexes, and different sects of Islam. To learn more about Islam or to meet Muslim Students at Lake Forest College contact Shabana Yusufshaq at *yusufss@lakeforest.edu*

GET ARTSY, FORESTERS

MICHELLE EVERST
CONTRIBUTOR
eversmj@lakeforest.edu

As members of the Lake Forest College community, you have a great opportunity to get involved art gallery practices! You haven't missed your chance to attend the last gallery opening of the semester in the Sonnenschein Gallery in the Durand Art Institute. The opening reception for the Lake Forest College Faculty Art Show will be this Thursday, November 12th at 7:30 on the third floor of Durand (located on North Campus).

Participating faculty artists include Jill Frank, Martina Nehrling, Eli Robb, Tracy Marie Taylor, and Karen Lebergott. Also, see the work of Lake Forest College Alumni Ashleigh Martinez. This show is a fantastic opportunity to see the working artist side of your professors and to discuss works of art with their creators. Not to mention, the infamous art opening refreshments will make this the tastiest way to experience art!

Jill Frank showed her work this summer at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. She persuades her subjects to re-enact traumatic moments from their pasts, then captures the "psychodramas" in vibrant saturated color. She will be showing a 96 inch long piece entitled "Blue Expanding."

Eli Robb has recently worked in video, performance, digital imaging, painting, drawing and printmaking. However the work he will be displaying in the upcoming show tend toward sculpture and installation. The three pieces he will show on Thursday vary from one another in their sculptural form from a "round peg in a round hole in a square peg in a square hole in a round peg" formed out of raw materials, to a

painstakingly hand painted super-real still-life sculpture.

Tracy Marie Taylor will be displaying 3 of the 4,000 photographs she took this past summer on a solo 9,000 mile road trip. Her artistic goal for the trip was to photograph as many rodeos as possible from Chicago to Berkeley, California. She searched for the fleeting moments just before riders were released from the gate on their bucking mounts; moments when the rider's.

Karen Lebergott will be displaying her work that is based on her research on original maps in Parisian libraries. As an artist in residence at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, she was invited into discussions with geographers and architects.

Lake Forest College Alumni Ashleigh Martinez was awarded an artist residency scholarship at the Andersen Ranch in Colorado this past summer. Her exhibition entitled "Marble, Co: Nature Reclaimed" will show the work that she completed in a photography workshop during her residency. Every artist in this show has a unique approach to the art making process and the resulting work is highly conceptualized and beautiful. We are fortunate to have such wonderful gallery spaces at our college and excellent faculty members within the art department who create art outside of class.

The Lake Forest College Art Department hopes to see you in Durand at 7:30 Thursday, November 12th!



Photo Credit: Zakea Boeger

Winners Eli Robb and Sarah Guest pose with Cakegirls Brenda and Mary Maher, and the prize-winning cake.

Opinions

Letters to the Editor

Response: Diminishing Rape

Anyone who describes the crime of rape as not morbid has a skewed view of sex crimes. In the October 29th publication of the Stentor, a columnist wrote about women becoming too defensive and violent when it comes to rape. This male columnist is very ignorant on the subject of sexual assault, and feels threatened because of the physical harm that can be caused to males.

He states that he “personally fear[s] a scared woman who took one of those classes.” Why is he putting women in a position to be scared in the first place, or why would she “fall to the ground” when it “is late at night?”

Women are on guard about rape because, as the columnist states, “about 100 for every 100,000 women” are sexually assaulted. Although he tries to belittle this number and claims that “the media and movies constantly depict the nature of sexual assault as frequently committed”, it is my belief that 100 out of 100,000 women being sexually assaulted is *too frequent*. In fact, 1 out of every 100,000 women would be too often.

As well as glossing over the horrible effects rape has on women, the columnist also puts the blame back on the victim by saying that the victim should feel bad about attacking “a friend or a family member.” How good is that bond if that “friend or family member” is raping you? This, once again, illustrates this male columnist’s perspective on how rape is not morbid.

This article is driven by his anger and demonstrates that ideas of male domination are still prevalent in our society. While everyone is entitled to their own opinion, I think it would be prudent for LFC to rise above such antediluvian ideas like male domination.

The columnist does not realize the seriousness of the issue of sexual assault, and does not consider the physical and psychologi-

cal harm that is caused to females when they are raped. Women have the right to fight back and resist by any means. Men rape as a means of domination, and the columnist, who is maybe feeling threatened by woman, feels like he can no longer dominate. He is upset that women are starting to fight back.

Women who live in a male dominated society are accustomed to feeling threatened by males and not until men—like this columnist—get over their domineering tendencies, will men and women obtain equality so that neither have to feel dominated, or threatened by the opposite gender.

Claire Perrot ‘11

Improving our Public Transport

Walking to town from the college in wintertime can leave you feeling like Dr. Zhivago. There is nothing good about being a pedestrian in winter season. It is cold, wet, and dangerous; especially if you are coming back or going to the Lantern drunk. For this reason, and many others I imagine, the community’s leaders are coming together to discuss possible public transportation options at our college.

From the proposals I have seen, the main focus is to provide the town with a small bus network that would connect the rich of Lake Forest with the high middle class of the city. This is a good thing as I am a student that is left unable to afford a car because of the high cost of education, and would welcome a public system of transportation, no matter what form it takes.

My needs aside, public transportation is also good for our college’s workers. Many are unable to afford transportation as their wages are not very high. If we are able to provide them with a means of transportation, it is possible that it could improve their lives

by providing support and convenience. Also, if the system was operated for profit, it is possible that its earnings could cover its operational costs. Granted, this is an assumption based on the system being heavily used.

With that said, I imagine that the residents of the town would welcome a light form of public transportation. From what I can tell, the Metra train is a smashing success. Why wouldn’t a bus that could take you to that train be any different?

Richard O’Neill ‘12

What’s with the Weather?

I’ve heard of Christmas in July, but it seems like we’ve seen the bitter cold of winter, the transitional neutrality of fall, and the calm warmth of spring all in the last few weeks.

Any semblance of natural cycles is gone. Our ancient ancestors would blame the gods or themselves for angering those gods. Now, we have science.

For me, this means the sad association with man-made climate change, wherein I bemoan our society’s self-destruction leading to a natural world unrecognizable to people 300 years ago, let alone 300 million.

Or maybe we should just despair at the whole idea of meteorology, or order itself. Maybe this chaotic weather is just representational of the chaos of existence, that there is no order, no control. We may as well give up this silly experiment we call human rationality and government, and return to survivalism.

Or, maybe the weather is just wacky. Maybe its wackiness has no effect on my life beyond altering my walks between classes, my brief glimpses of nature before I hunker down to write another paper.

I need to get out more.

Andrew Van Herik ‘11

Rethinking the Gyre

MATT LEONARD
COLUMNIST

leonaml@lakeforest.edu

Swirling slowly in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is the North Pacific Gyre, a natural whirlpool vortex that is caused by the convergence of several strong water currents. The gyre is so large and turns so slowly that one could easily pass over it by ship without noticing. Such phenomena exist throughout the world’s oceans.

This gyre, however, has earned the nickname “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch” because of the astronomically high levels of pollutants (mainly plastics) present in the gyre. Although not visible from satellite imagery, this pollution vortex is estimated to be the size of Texas, beginning directly under the surface and suspended into the Pacific Ocean’s depths.

Discovered in 1988 by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration initiative hoping to map pollution levels in the Pacific Ocean regionally, the NOAA discovered that pollutants appear to be dragged by the oceans’ strong currents towards the gyres where they then remain slowly twirling in the vortex. Debris appears to remain in these vortices until pushed out (perhaps by some oceanic disturbance), and yet they almost always find their way back to a gyre.

Even if the sources of many of the world’s ecological problems are hotly disputed, the suspended plastics in our oceans are clearly manmade. Although dumping pollution into the world’s oceans is a problem which every nation takes part in, there are several major players. Experts believe that the bulk of these plastics find their way into the Pacific Ocean through China, Japan and America, the three largest economies in the world which all border the Pacific Ocean.

Enter the present. The world’s oceans are the last surfaces on earth that have not been politically divided. Yet this longstanding precedent, that no sea

shall fall under the rule of any nation, could actually spell disaster for those very seas.

One of the central tenants of capitalism is the belief that private property, or ownership of land, is paramount to development. In opposition to communism, which believes communal ownership of land to be most beneficial, capitalists tend to believe private ownership of land fosters investment in and improvement of the land. Believers in capitalism tend to argue that when the land is not legally yours, and could thus be taken from you without legal reason, speculation and doubt arise as to whether investment and betterment of the property is worthwhile.

Nearly every society has realized that communal (central) ownership of land is fundamentally flawed. Even China (sometimes referred to as “Communism Incorporated” because of its often pro-capitalistic economic agenda, despite being self-labeled as centralized) has moved in recent years towards private ownership of property in hopes of spurring economic development and betterment of land. We all seem to agree that property ownership is beneficial.

But why does that argument break down when it comes to our oceans?

Because no clear property rights exist for the oceans, they become 1) the dumping grounds for the bordering nations and 2) resource pools that are pushed to the brink and beyond for economic gain. Only a handful of feeble international organizations exist to enforce maritime law, which often misdirects fines (and lacks the authority to collect on those fines anyway).

In my opinion, the solution is clear: privatize the oceans. And why not? We have seen that mankind has clearly developed in a way that favors privatization of land (or at least some land; public ownership of some land is also necessary). What is more, because of the advent of airplanes, national ownership of air space has also become a precedent.

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Opinions

GYRE, continued from page 6

For many years, Cuba required any passenger airplane flying over to pay a fine or else be denied clearance. Cuba conveniently priced the fee so that it was just a bit smaller than the price of extra fuel required to fly around the island.

The argument, that the oceans belong to the people of the world, is fundamentally flawed. The Great Lakes of North America do not belong to the world (actually, their precious water doesn't even belong to Waukegan, a small Wisconsin city only about 20 miles away from Lake Michigan that is fighting to tap into the lake water), nor does the air that floats over Cuba belong to the world.

The communal sharing the world's oceans is clearly not working. Outside of ethical rea-

sons, which clearly did not stop the polluters from polluting, why would any one nation be motivated to undertake this enormous cleaning effort? How could any single nation justify such an undertaking to its populace when the problem is a world problem?

In the end, it becomes abundantly clear that only through some degree of private ownership of the oceans will we be able to create a system of waterways that, like land, can be bought and sold to those who wish to improve and better them. A sensible framework that regulates and rewards improvement, while allowing the possessor to benefit from ownership, is the golden standard that should be strived for if we desire progress towards cleaner oceans.

America: our power is our creativity

ALEX GILBERT
CONTRIBUTOR

gilbeag@lakeforest.edu

Again and again, we hear that the one superpower-world led by the United States is drawing to a close. India and China are both developing rapidly and appear to be on pace to surpass the United States. The proponents of such arguments point to India's and China's higher populations. They also point to the fact that the United States is already developed; there is no more development boom to aid the US economy. Leaving criticisms of such arguments aside, there is one reason that we are moving towards such a position; we have lost our creative edge.

Creativity is an inherent part of being American. In a country of immigrants, the same type of daring and courage that it takes to drop

everything and immigrate were the foundations of our creativity. Our families had a boldness that allowed us to propose and implement new ideas. These ideas manifested themselves in many forms, from someone crazy enough to fly a kite in a lightning storm, to another harnessing the efficiency of an assembly line.

This creativeness, actively encouraged by our culture, is what gave our country the competitive edge that led to its role today. However, as we gained this power, many became fearful of losing it. Corporations emerged, effectively blocking creative ideas from being able to emerge properly. We became contained in old ways of thinking, such as believing fossil fuels are the most efficient form of energy. We tempered our creative edge.

What we need to do is rein-

vent this creative edge. A new generation of thinkers, of dreamers, of realizers is needed. We must move beyond trying to work within the established boundaries. If you discover a creative idea, capitalize on it. Don't just move on believing it to be undervalued. If the United States is to retain its position as the leading innovator of the world, we must encourage ourselves to strive for greater creations. The growth seen in developing economies can more than be matched by a creative economy, an economy where we are constantly increasing efficiency, taking advantage of new ideas, and always transforming our system.

The creation of computers moved us into the digital age, to the point where we are one of the most digital countries. That advantage can be matched in other sectors, from energy to education.

More drugs on campus, an additional response

PAUL HENNE
COLUMNIST

hennepm@lakeforest.edu

Dear drug users and drug opponents,

Two weeks ago, Katie McLain wrote a really cool article, promoting "well-reasoned discussions [about The War on Drugs] that take both sides into consideration." I will attempt to reason a side of the discussion.

McLain argued, "those who do use [drugs] are just more motivated [by harsh punishments] to not get caught." While this statement seems logical, it's false. College students are typically unmotivated to avoid getting caught with drugs (As I have previously written, college students are motivated by little unless it involves getting laid).

The penalty for people who do drugs is minute, while the penalty for drug dealers is pretty severe. Hence, dealers are motivated to obviate the police, but Joe Pothead doesn't care that much. People get caught with weed every weekend, and they rarely receive a serious punishment.

Actually, an explicit drug scene accompanies most drug

users in that collegiate or college-aged drugs users want other people to know that they also do drugs. The abundance of tee shirts and earrings with pot leaves on them is not merely because the pot leaf looks pretty. I know that this doesn't apply to everyone, or every kind of drug user, but a significant number of drug users are overt about their illegal activity, and don't really mind getting

“ *The abundance of tee shirts and earrings with pot leaves on them is not merely because the pot leaf looks pretty.* ”

busted.

The trick, however, is to break laws and not get caught. If you, drug users, do this simple task, you can maintain the semblance of dignity, and you can still enjoy the minor psychedelic effects of weed. (Seriously, just stop getting caught.)

Also, McLain stated that SSDP's article ignores "pot's potential health risks." When consider-

ing the legalization of weed, health risks are unnecessary to consider.

If one considers health risks, then they must also consider legal consistency. Each year, more people die from tobacco and an unhealthy diet than from all drugs combined. I maintain that eating crappy food should not be illegal for its potential health risks because crappy food is delicious. (Nevertheless, the lobbyists for the obese who want to change the healthcare bill are changing my mind.) Hence, noting the apparent lack of the United States' lack of paternalism over what we Americans digest, and I doubt that health risks augment the quality of the argument against legalizing drugs.

For example, alcohol, an inebriating substance, is legal. Marijuana, also an inebriating substance with lesser effects than alcohol, is illegal.

Why is marijuana illegal? Well, Marijuana's legality is pretty complex, and involves a lot of sketchy racist and discriminatory factors, but I assure that it has nothing to do with the mental or physical effects of marijuana.

I thank Katie for her article, and I now think that I'll attend one or two of the SSDP meetings. Also, (seriously) stop getting caught.



CHEERS

Winter break is only one month away!

JEERS



Having class on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Sports



Volleyball *sets* the standard

far left: Mandi Mulliner drives the volleyball over block.

near left: analyzes the play from the sidelines

photos courtesy of: Karen Fuller

NICK CANTOR
SPORTS EDITOR
sports@lakeforest.edu

What began as a disappointing season for the Lake Forest Volleyball team, ended with signs of future success on October 31, with back to back victories against Lawrence University and Wisconsin Lutheran College. Led by Megan Fasules, the sole senior on the team, the Foresters posted a 7-18 overall record, and a 4-4 record in Midwest Conference play.

"Unfortunately, we did not have the season we hoped to have," Senior Co-Captain Megan Fasules said. "We had a lot of talent, but really did not come into our own until the end of the season," she added.

The Foresters dropped their first six decisions, forcing them to spend the bulk of the season trying to climb back into competition. Their final record of 7-18 is not representative of where the team stands for next season. There is no question that they are a stronger team now compared to the beginning of the season.

"This season was definitely a rebuilding one with so many new members joining the team," sophomore Theresa Converse commented. The future looks bright for the Volleyball team, which will have all of their players, minus Fasules returning next year with at least one year of Division III Volleyball experience under their belts.

For Fasules, the experience of being the only senior on the team was a strange one. "I could have had some extra help with leading the team," she said. "The other returning players stepped up, but we were still outnumbered 2:1. It was also weird to think about the fact that I was the only player not returning next year."

Despite the losing record, there were numerous highlights for the team throughout the season. For Theresa Converse, it was the team's victory over Illinois College back on September 25. "It was a challenging game for us, and we finally came together as a team to beat them (Illinois College)," she said.

Another highlight in the season came when Freshman Cori

Cooper was named the Midwest Conference Player of the week on November 3, for her efforts in three Forester victories over a span of seven days. Cooper, one of the many freshmen on the team, represents the promising future the team holds. Co-Captain, Megan Fasules touched on the fact that her co-captain Mandi Mulliner ended the season with the highest hitting percentage on the team, another positive feature of the season. For Fasules, the only senior on the team, ending her career on a winning streak was also a highlight.

While the season may not have gone as well as the team had anticipated it would, it ended on a high note, which hopefully will carry over into the 2010 season. "This season was definitely a rebuilding one, with so many new members joining the team, but we ended on a very strong note, so next year is looking very promising," Converse said.

